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MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Kenya

Colleges to Reopen on January 6

The University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College, closed by the government in mid-August after a student strike, will be reopened on January 6. Tough new regulations will be in force at the two institutions whose combined enrollment exceeds 9,000.

In contrast to disorders in previous years, the problems in August were largely nonpolitical. The students were objecting to poor food and overcrowding, results of the schools' rapid expansion in recent years. The students also were protesting alleged faculty preoccupation with private business interests.

The government recently published a list of students eligible to re-enter the two schools. These students must promise in writing to comply with university regulations such as requirements for compulsory class attendance and official permission for demonstrations or processions. The re-entry list excludes the seven student leaders of the August strike.

The government will probably have police on hand at the schools on registration day, and there is a good chance the institutions will reopen without disorder. Both the students and their parents are eager to get on with the education process. The diploma is essential in Kenya for a good job. Once the schools reopen, however, disorders are likely to recur because of the students' resentment over the government's tough line and their unresolved grievances about the institutions' facilities.

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Dahomey

Coup Plotting

Captain Janvier Assogba, who has reportedly been plotting against President Kerekou for several months, may soon make his move.



Assogba apparently believes he can now count on support from the army's infantry garrison in Cotonou, the country's administrative capital and site of the presidential palace. Assogba himself commands the army's armored squadron at Ouidah some 25 miles from Cotonou. From this command, he played a major role in planning and executing the military coup in October 1972 that placed President Kerekou in power.

The success of Assogba's plans probably would depend on the neutralization of the important paratrooper company also based at Ouidah. This group is led by Captain Aikpe, the powerful minister of interior and the principal spokesman after President Kerekou for Dahomey's clique of progressive-minded officers.

Kerekou's regime is the most radical and nationalist of Dahomey's nine governments since independence from France in 1960. Assogba reportedly has been plotting since last fall when, after coming under attack from progressive officers, he was demoted from finance minister to minister of civil service and labor.

Assogba's group is said to be disenchanted with the government's increasingly leftist policies, its close ties to Guinea, and its failure to deal with Dahomey's chronic economic problems. At a recent council of ministers meeting, Assogba reportedly forced the expulsion from Dahomey of the principal Guinean advisers on loan to Kerekou. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM)



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Pakistan-Afghanistan

Possible Summit Meeting

Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto announced Thursday he has invited President Daoud of neighboring Afghanistan to visit Pakistan. Bhutto said he wants to discuss ways to improve troubled relations between the two countries, but he did not announce a date for the talks. The Afghans last month raised with Chinese officials the possibility of a Bhutto-Daoud summit. The Chinese reportedly passed the proposal to Bhutto and encouraged him to accept it.

If the meeting does materialize, the two leaders will not find it easy to resolve the main issue bedeviling relations--the status of Pakistan's two frontier provinces bordering on Afghanistan. The Daoud regime strongly advocates greater autonomy for these provinces, whose inhabitants are ethnically more closely related to the people of Afghanistan than to other Pakistanis. Islamabad, for its part, regards the status of the provinces as strictly an internal Pakistani concern. The Bhutto government claims that efforts by its political opponents in these provinces to bring about provincial autonomy are in fact an Afghan-supported attempt to break up Pakistan. (CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM/BACKGROUND USE ONLY)



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